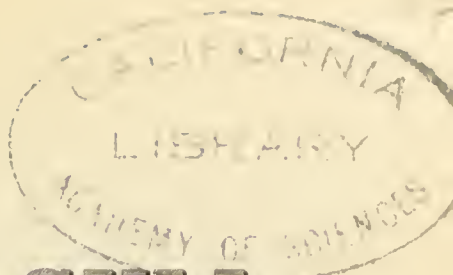


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VOLUME 9

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NUMBER 12

DECEMBER MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, the eighth inst., at eight o'clock in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd Floor, Room 19.

The feature of the evening will be an address by Mr. D. D. McLean, Field Naturalist, of the California Fish and Game Commission. The subject, "Winter Birds of the Sierra," is an interesting one as most people have no opportunity to visit the mountains at this season of the year and will be glad to know what birds frequent their vacation grounds in winter. Lantern slides and study skins will be shown.



DECEMBER FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, December 11th, to Golden Gate Park. Take McAllister St. Car. No. 5, "Beach" sign, to 43rd Avenue entrance on Fulton St. Bring lunch.

The usual route will be followed, skirting Chain of Lakes, and passing Stadium, Spreckels and Lloyd Lakes, ending at Japanese Tea Garden, where lunch will be eaten if the party so desires. This will give those who care to, an opportunity to attend the Sunday afternoon lecture at the California Academy of Sciences, at three o'clock—"Purpose, aim, organization, etc., of the Dept. of Botany of the California Academy of Sciences," by Miss Alice Eastwood, Curator of the Dept. of Botany.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING: The one hundred twenty-eighth regular meeting of the Association was held on November 10th, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair, Mrs. Carl Smith, Secretary. Thirty-five members and guests present.

The committee on the Thomas Bridges memorial reported that the stone with the following inscription:

Thomas Bridges
Naturalist
May 22, 1807
Sept. 9, 1865

had been set October 21st, in Laurel Hill Cemetery. The total cost was \$74.35, of which the Association and individual members of the Association paid \$15.50.

Some time ago Mrs. F. T. Bicknell of Los Angeles wrote the Association in regard to a movement to name a State bird for California and asked for co-operation. Much interest was shown in the matter and Dr. D'Evelyn appointed a committee. It is felt that here is a splendid opportunity for reaching a large number of people, especially school children, having them learn something about birds in order to make a choice and then to give facts to support their candidate. Mr. Harwell, chairman of the committee, wrote Mrs. Bicknell outlining plans.



Mr. Brighton C. Cain entertained the members by giving an account of birds seen at the preserve of the Modesto Properties Co., near Livingston, in the San Joaquin Valley. The motion pictures showed nesting and young of many water birds. Pictures of birds from other localities were also shown. It was a most interesting and instructive evening.



Miscellaneous Comments

Also, Dr. Badé reported that there were at least one hundred band-tailed pigeons on his place on Howell Mountain, Lake County. On November 27th three flocks of twenty or more each were seen about Tamalpais. Many accounts are given of these birds, the presumption being that due to protection they are increasing.

On November 26th two herring gulls were seen on the first lake of the Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park. Here also were assembled a number of ring-necked ducks, the females outnumbering the males. On the second lake a Wilson, sometimes known as Jack, snipe was seen feeding on the lily pads. The bird looked awkward progressing over this unstable ground.

Shore birds have not been very numerous along the Alameda and Bay Farm Island shores. Willets predominate among the larger sized birds, while red-backed sandpipers predominate among the smaller. It is distressing to see so many lame godwits and willets, the victims of hunters, who consider every bird seen along the shore a snipe when it is not a duck.



White-Throated Swifts in Oakland

Having been told of a colony of white-throated swifts nesting at Leona Quarries, Oakland, I visited the place August 21st. On the top of the hill are several large funnel-shaped holes from which the rock was formerly quarried. Here some twelve swifts were flying, then all would leave to forage elsewhere, and upon returning a number of the birds would disappear in crevices in the bold exposed rock face. The large quantities of white droppings at the openings of these crevices helped to convince me that nests were located here. This is the first record of white-throated swifts nesting in Oakland.

JUNEA W. (MRS. G. EARLE) KELLY.



Wednesday afternoon, September 28th, going into her garden in Berkeley, Mrs. Northway reports she almost stepped on an ashy petrel which had taken refuge on the ground near the blackberry vines. This unusual visitor was taken the next morning to Mr. Dixon at the University for identification and scientific relief, if injured, as was supposed, being found in such strange

surroundings, but after examination the bird was reported to be *O. K.* and *oceanodroma homochroa*, although a night flier and an ocean bird, took wing in broad daylight from out the Museum window. It is hoped its own abiding place was reached in safety.

* * *

SAVE WESTERN DUCKS FOR WESTERN SPORTSMEN

Outdoor magazines, bulletins of the U. S. Biological Survey, and reports from other sources have been informing us for months of the terrible toll of ducks being taken by the alkaline death-traps many shallow bodies of water in the West have become.

When it was reported ducks were dying by millions we were inclined to take the statements with a "dose of salt." But at last the appalling truth has come home to us, for we have had a sorry taste of that truth in our own State.

The Associated Sportsmen's Clubs of California has taken up the task of raising \$10,000 with which to combat the Grim Reaper of our ducks and other waterfowl and the sportsmen of California have come through with half of the amount. Oregon and Washington have each been allotted \$1,000 of the fund. Montana's share is but \$250.

This \$10,000 is required for engineering surveys of the water areas affected to determine the cost of permanent correction, upon which estimate the necessary funds will be secured to complete the work. Permanent correction lies in building dikes and drilling wells to impound and supply fresh water to these areas that may again be made into the vast feeding and breeding sanctuaries they were a few years ago. The method has been definitely proven and the job is now up to the sportsmen.

Contributions for this most worthy cause will be accepted in any amount, and may be sent to the Secretary of the Montana Sportsmen's Association, 836 Locust Street, Missoula, Montana, or direct to the California Association. In case contributions are sent direct to California you are asked to make your check or money order payable to A. Zappone, Disbursing Clerk, U. S. Department of Agriculture, but mail them, plainly marked "Western Duck Fund," to Associated Sportsmen's Clubs of California, 72 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California.—*The Big Horn*.

* * *

FIELD TRIP NOVEMBER 15. The campus at Berkeley was our bird laboratory for the November hike of the Audubon Association. A two-day rain had left things dripping wet, while overhanging clouds gave promise of more rain and seemingly kept some of the bird population under cover. Perhaps the same indications persuaded some of our Association members to remain at home. The seventeen of us who made the trip, under the leadership of Mrs. A. S. Kibbe and Mr. Charles Bryant, certainly spent a most enjoyable day.

We entered the campus at the Center Street entrance and were soon attracted by the "yank, yank, yank" of a red-breasted nuthatch which we observed busily feeding along the bark of the larger limbs of a pine tree. The scolding notes of ruby-crowned kinglets, flocks of juncos and bush-tits called us on and away. Near the football statue we stopped for quite a while to watch a willow downy woodpecker making chips fly from a small limb twenty feet over our heads. With tail firmly pressed against a small branch the size

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of a lead pencil, he vigorously attacked a gall along the stem of the branch. We all agreed he deserved to find the larva hidden within. Feeling the urge to travel farther afield, we left the plucky little fellow as we had found him, drilling away at his oak branch.

The sharp tsip, the "location call" of Audubon warblers, was one of the most commonly heard bird notes of the day. But one Townsend warbler was encountered. A fine close-up view was had of this beautiful warbler as he searched the leaves of a chestnut tree for food.

Working our way up through the Botanical Gardens and Faculty Glade we ate our lunch at the Greek Theater and then walked up Strawberry Canyon, from which we climbed to the ridge to the west. A very high pitched call note led to the discovery of a flock of golden-crowned kinglets foraging in the pine grove along the ridge. Golden-crowns had been found in this same grove the November trip of the previous year, so the party was on the lookout for them.

A pair of rufous-crowned sparrows was observed along the sunny slope of the hills as we climbed back along the crest of the ridge. When we reached the trail leading down into the Claremont Canyon we descended to the road and thence back to street cars and home.

Birds encountered were: Glaucous-winged, northern western, California and Bonaparte gulls, Farallon double-crested cormorant, western sandpipers observed on the bay and along the Key Route mole by the San Francisco contingent. On the campus and adjacent hills: Coast California quail, northern turkey vulture, western red-tailed and desert sparrow hawks; willow downy woodpecker, Monterey red-shafted flicker; northwestern California jay, western meadowlark, California Brewer blackbird; California linnet, green-backed Arkansas goldfinch, Nuttall white- and golden-crowned sparrows, Oregon junco, California rufous-crowned, song and fox sparrows, San Francisco spotted and brown towhees; Pacific Audubon and Townsend warblers; Vigors Bewick wren, red-breasted nuthatch, California plain titmouse; Pacific Coast bush-tit, intermediate wren-tit; western golden- and ruby-crowned kinglets; dwarf hermit thrush, western robin. Thirty-six species.

Those making the trip were: Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Mrs. A. S. Kibbe, Miss Selma Werner, Ynes Mexia, Mrs. Brecelin, Ethel Crum, Bert Harewell, Miss Rose Kautz, Miss Beryl Abramson, Dr. E. F. Card, Emma Haefner, Alma F. Boegle, Miss Cecelia Carniahan, A. W. Lockerbie, Francis Bacon. 14 members, 3 visitors.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

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